

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CU-04 SY-10 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01

OMB-01 TRSE-00 OPR-02 RSR-01 /121 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5856

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 3275

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT/MX

SUBJ: NEW GOVERNOR IN PUEBLA: STUDENT MARCH PREVENTED

REF: MEXICO 3233

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: SENATOR GUILLERMO MORALES BLUMENKRON APPOINTED NEW INTERIM GOVERNOR OF STATE OF PUEBLA IN SPECIAL SESSION MAY 9, 1973. PUEBLA STUDENTS CELEBRATED BAUTISTA'S DOWNFALL AND PROMPTLY ISSUED NEW DEMANDS TO NEW GOVERNOR. BUSINESS SECTOR OF PUEBLA MEANWHILE HAS PLANNED SHUT-DOWN OF BUSINESS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES ON MAY 10 PROTESTING BAUTISTA'S RESIGNATION. PRESS REPORTS MASS MEETING PLANNED FOR DOWNTOWN PUEBLA MAY 10. IN MEXICO CITY, PLANNED MAY 9 STUDENT MARCH DOWN REFORMA (IN FRONT OF EMBASSY) WAS PREVENTED BY THE CONCENTRATION OF LARGE NUMBERS OF POLICE AND ARMY UNITS ALONG PLANNED ROUTE. FLASH MEETINGS TOOK PLACE, BUT VIOLENCE WAS MINIMAL, AND 100 ARRESTED STUDENTS RELEASED SAME DAY. END SUMMARY.

2. IN FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENT MORALES PROMISED TO RESTORE PUBLIC PEACE THROUGH " STRICT APPLICATION OF LAW AND JUST DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME." HE REAFFIRMED RESPECT FOR UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY AND PROMISED TO GOVERN FOR GOOD OF " ALL SECTORS, BUT PARTICULARLY

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THE STUDENT SECTOR."

3. MORALES HAS BENT OVER BACKWARDS TO PLACATE STUDENT ELEMENTS IN ALL PUBLIC STATEMENTS SINCE BEING INFORMED OF HIS ELECTION, AND SERGIO FLORES SUAREZ, RECTOR OF UNIVERSITY OF PUEBLA, HAS GRUDGINGLY ADMITTED THAT THE APPOINTMENT OF MORALES " COULD BE A GOOD ONE," PROVIDED MORALES ADOPTS A " MORE COMPREHENSIVE POLICY TOWARDS UNIVERSITY PROBLEMS." QUESTIONED ABOUT STUDENT REACTION TO PROPOSED COUNTER- DEMONSTRATION OF BUSINESS AND EMPLOYER ORGANIZATIONS CALLED TO PROTEST BAUTISTA RESIGNATION, FLORES SAID THAT IT HAS BEEN UNIVERSITY POLICY TO " NEITHER ACCEPT NOR CAUSE ACTS OF PROVOCATION," AND THAT STUDENTS WOULD UNDERSTAND THIS.

4. STUDENT STRUGGLE COMMITTEES IN PUEBLE HAVE SUBMITTED NEW LIST OF DEMANDS TO NEW GOVERNOR. INCLUDED IN DEMANDS ARE RELEASE OF " POLITICAL" PRISONERS ARRESTED IN MAY 1 DISTURBANCE; DISSOLU-

TION OF THE POPULAR AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF PUEBLA, INCREASE IN THE SUBSIDY TO THE AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF PUEBLA (UAP), INDEMNIFICATION FOR THE VICTIMS OF MAY 1 VIOLENCE; RESIGNATION AND PROSECUTION OF GOVERNMENT FUNCIONARIES RESPONSIBLE FOR MAY 1 EVENTS, AND COMPLETE INVESTIGATION INTO THE ASSASSINATIONS OF JOEL ARRIAGA AND ENRIQUE CABRERA. MORALES HAS NOT YET COMMENTED ON THESE NEW DEMANDS.

5. PRIVATE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND EMPLOYERS ORGANIZATIONS IN PUEBLA HAVE CALLED FOR BUSINESS SHUT- DOWN AND HALT OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES MAY 10 IN PROTEST OF BAUTISTA' S RESIGNATION. A MASS COUNTER- DEMONSTRATION WAS CALLED FOR LATE AFTERNOON OF MAY 10 IN PUEBLA. IN SPITE OF RECTOR FLORES ENIGMATIC REMARKS, STUDENTS MAY STILL TRY TO DISRUPT MEETING OR CAUSE DISRUPTIONS. BUSINESS COMMUNITY ENRAGED THAT STUDENT " HOODLUMS" ABLE TO FORCE RESIGNATION OF BAUTISTA, A TOUGH LAW- AND- ORDER GOVERNOR WHO ENJOYED WIDE SUPPORT OF BUSINESS AND CIVIC LEADERS IN PUEBLA.

6. OPPOSITION PARTY, PARTIDO DE ACCION NACIONAL (PAN) LIKEWISE CRITICIZED BAUTISTA RESIGNATION BUT FOR OTHER REASONS. PAN MAINTAINS BAUTISTA SHOULD HAVE REMAINED IN GOVERNORS OFFICE UNTIL RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION REVEALED, INSINUATION BEING THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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BAUTISTA RESIGNED ONE JUMP AHEAD OF INVESTIGATION THAT WOULD REVEAL HIS CULPABILITY. PAN FURTHER CENSURED STATE LEGISLATURE FOR ACCEPTING BAUTISTA RESIGNATION.

7. IN MEXICO CITY, THE STUDENT MARCH PLANNED FOR MAY 9 DID NOT TAKE PLACE. SEVERAL STUDENT ATTEMPTS TO ORGANIZE WERE DIS-

RUPTED BY HELMETED RIOT POLICE. RIOT POLICE AND SOME ARMY UNITS
OUT IN FORCE ALONG PROPOSED PARADE ROUTE, AND REPORTEDLY UNKNOWN
NUMBERS OF OTHER PLAIN- CLOTHES SECURITY FORCES CIRCULATED
THROUGHOUT THE AREA. ESTIMATED 500 UNIFORMED RIOT POLICE, 30
VEHICLES AND UNKNOWN NUMBER OF PLAINCLOTHESMEN INVOLVED. PARADE,
HAD IT MATERIALIZED, WOULD HAVE PASSED IN FRONT OF US EMBASSY
AND POLICE CONCENTRATION PARTICULARLY STRONG HERE AND AT JUAREZ
MONUMENT IN ALAMEDA. WHILE PARADE SUCCESSFULLY DETERRED, FLASH
MEETINGS TOOK PLACE AT VARIOUS POINTS ALONG PARADE ROUTE AND
THROUGHOUT FASHIONABLE ZONA ROSA, OCCURRING ALL DURING AFTERNOON
AND INTO LATE EVENING HOURS. ALL WERE QUICKLY DISPERSED, SOME USE
OF TEAR GAS BOMBS REPORTED. POLICE UNITS UNARMED EXCEPT FOR
CLUBS, AND NO SERIOUS VIOLENCE REPORTED. ONLY ONE SERIOUS INJURY,
CAUSED BY AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT, REPORTED. OVER ONE HUNDRED
STUDENTS
ARRESTED AND DETAINED, BUT RELEASED SAME DAY. NO KNOWN STUDENT
DEMONSTRATIONS BEING PRESENTLY PLANNED AS FAR AS EMBASSY CAN
ASCERTAIN. SITUATION HERE QUIET AS OF MAY 10.
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